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Message Text

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16
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 ACDA-19 MBFR-03 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01

NEA-10 RSR-01 /164 W
---------- 080708
R 280858Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 740
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UR
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV TAKES HARD LINE ON CSCE

REF: MOSCOW 8835

1. IN FOREIGN POLICY SECTION OF HIS JULY 26 SPEECH IN KIEV,
BREZHNEV TOUCHED ALL THE FAMILIAR BASES IN THE DETENTE INFIELD,
BUT PUT UNUSUAL EMPHASIS IN CSCE, ON WHICH HE GAVE VIRTUALLY
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NO SIGN OF SOVIET FLEXIBILITY.

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2. BREZHNEV WELCOMED PROGRESS OF CSCE SO FAR (BALANCING EMPHASIS ON EUROPEAN FOCUS WITH BOW TO "CONSTRUCTIVE" PARTICIPATION OF US AND CANADA), AND EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT "COMMON DENOMINATOR" EXISTS, I.E., GENERAL DESIRE THAT THERE BE NO MORE WARS IN EUROPE. BUT HE ALSO NOTED DIFFERENCES OF VIEW AND PREDICTED FURTHER "DISCUSSIONS AND ARGUMENTS" ON RANGE OF PROBLEMS. HE ALSO SPOKE OF ATTEMPTS TO MISUSE CSCE IN SERVICE OF NARROW INTERESTS AND FOR POLITICAL MANEUVERS. FINALLY, HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT "GREAT WORK STARTED WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED SUCCESSFULLY WITHOUT UNNECESSARY DELAY." WE COULD DETECT IN THE SPEECH NO FLEXIBILITY TOWARD WESTERN POSITONS OF FREER CONTACTS AMONG PEOPLE.

3. WORTH NOTING THAT BREZHNEV SHOWED SENSITIVITY TO GREAT-POWER COLLUSION THEME WHICH HAS RECEIVED RECENT ATTENTION IN SOVIET PRESS (REFTEL). HE FOUND SEVERAL WAYS TO SAY THAT ALL COUNTRIES BENEFIT FROM RELAXATION IN EUROPE AND FROM IMPROVED SOVIET RELATIONS WITH US, FRG, AND FRANCE, AND THAT COUNTRIES OF ASIA, AFRICA, AND LA ARE ALSO MAKING THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO LASTING PEACE. PRESUMABLY WITH CHINESE MAINLY IN MIND, HE CHARACTERIZED ATTEMPTS TO SET GREAT POWERS AGAINST LESSER ONES AS "UNJUSTIFIED, UNNECESSARY, AND EVEN HARMFUL."

4. WE READ THE KIEV SPEECH AS INTENDED TO SET FORTH THE SOVIET POSITION ON CSCE JUST PRIOR TO MEETING WITH COMMUNIST LEADERS IN CRIMEA, WHERE BREZHNEV ARRIVED JULY 27. IN ANOTHER TALK TO LOCAL UKRAINIAN PARTY FAITHFUL JUST BEFORE LEAVING KIEV (PARAPHRASED IN PRAVDA JULY 28) BREZHNEV SAID THAT AN IMPORTANT PRECONDITION TO FURTHER PROGRESS IN EUROPE IS "OUR CLOSE COOPERATION WITH FRATERNAL SOCIALIST STATES, COORDINATION OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY, AND HARMONIZING OF ACTION."
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